1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

often resort to mortgaging to their landlords the green plants standing in the field for two- or three-tenths of the regular crop price, and thus further aggravate their next year's economic situation.

3. Lack of incentive and indulgence in liquor are prevalent in Yao communities and stem from the impossible economic situation in which the peasants find themselves.

Under the Communists, several hsien governments in Kwangsi have started moving Yao people from the mountains to the flat land to clear new land for cultivation or to share agricultural land confiscated from Han and Chuang landlords.[25] However, the Han and Chuang communities on the flat land are probably not very cordial to these immigrant Yao people, for there are cases in which some Yao people, after being given land in Han and Chuang communities, chose to return to their old habitat in the mountains. Recent Chinese Communist news dispatches claim an unusual effort on the part of the Communist cadres to foster friendliness between these ethnic groups.

Yao people have the custom of cultivating each other's fields in groups. This custom is

25. Jen-min Jih-pao, Peking, March 11, 1950; June 25, 1952.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

highly praised by the Chinese Communists since it resembles the "mutual-aid teams" in the old Liberated Areas in North China. Today, this traditional practice of the Yao people may facilitate the task of the Chinese Communists in the organization of the "co-operative labor teams" among the Yao people.

E. The Miao People

In the Central-South most of the Miao people live in West Hunan where there is today a Miao Autonomous Region. It is interesting to note, however, that the Miao people comprise only one-fifth of the population of this so-called Miao Autonomous Region.

In contrast to the situation in the Southwest, where Miao tenants are exploited by their Yi landlords, in West Kwangsi the Miao have been persecuting the Yi minority to such an extent that the latter group has dwindled in number in the last one hundred years from 10,000 to 3,000.[26] Although most of the Miao, as an immigrant group on Hainan Island, are tenants of the aboriginal Li landlords and are controlled by them, they do not mingle or intermarry with the Li. The Miao on Hainan are said to be more intelligent and literate than the Li. Unlike the Miao

26. Liu Chieh, Kuang-hsi T'e-chung Chiao-yü, [Special Education in Kwangsi], Kweilin: Kuang-hsi sheng-cheng-fu pien-i wei-yuan hui, 1940, p. 2.